

Claims

**What is claimed is:**

1. A method for providing transactional billing for trusted third party services offered to a plurality of users via a computer network, said method comprising:

generating at least one log record indicative of at least one of said users submitting at least one electronic document for trusted third party services;

generating at least one log record indicative of forwarding said at least one electronic document to at least a second of said plurality of users;

parsing said log records to generate billing information ; and,

providing said billing information to at least one processing application which processes said billing information and generates a plurality of bills dependently thereupon.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising capturing information indicative of a billing label from said first user, wherein at least a portion of said captured information is included in at least one of said log records.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein said billing label is associated with at least said submitting.

4. The method of Claim 2, wherein said billing label is indicative of a client identifier.

5. The method of Claim 2, wherein said billing label is indicative of a credit card.

6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising capturing information indicative of a billing label from said at least second user, wherein at least some of said captured information is included in at least one of said log records.

7. The method of Claim 6, wherein said billing label is associated with at least said forwarding.

8. The method of Claim 6, wherein said billing label is indicative of a client identifier.
9. The method of Claim 6, wherein said billing label is indicative of a credit card.
10. The method of Claim 1, wherein said parsing is performed automatically and periodically.
11. The method of Claim 1, further comprising generating at least one log record indicative of notifying at least said second of said plurality of users of said submitting.
12. The method of Claim 11, wherein said notifying comprises generating at least one e-mail message.
13. The method of Claim 12, wherein said e-mail message includes at least one electronic address associated with said computer network and the trusted third party services.

14. The method of Claim 13, wherein said electronic address is a uniform resource locator.

15. The method of Claim 14, wherein said uniform resource locator is further associated with said at least one submitted document.

16. The method of Claim 1, wherein said log entries are indicative of discreet times respectively associated therewith.

17. The method of Claim 1, wherein said users are separated into a plurality of subsets, each of said subsets being associated with a subscribing entity.

18. The method of Claim 17, wherein at least one said subscribing entity is a firm.

19. The method of Claim 17, further comprising providing at least one of said plurality of bills to at least one of said subscribing entities.

20. The method of Claim 19, wherein said at least one electronic document and said at least one of said plurality of bills are respectively submitted and provided via said computer network.

21. The method of Claim 19, wherein said at least one of said plurality of bills is provided via said computer network.

22. The method of Claim 17, wherein ones of said user's in one of said subsets are associated with one or more groups.

23. The method of Claim 1, further comprising storing data indicative of default billing information for each of said users.

24. The method of Claim 1, wherein said at least one electronic document is submitted via said computer network.

25. The method of Claim 1, wherein said computer network comprises a global interconnection of computers and computer networks.

26. The method of Claim 1, further comprising generating a log record indicative of storing said at least one submitted electronic document.

27. The method of Claim 26, further comprising encrypting said submitted electronic document prior to said storing.

28. The method of Claim 27, further comprising generating a log record indicative of retrieving said encrypted stored electronic document.

29. The method of Claim 28, further comprising decrypting said encrypted retrieved electronic document.

30. The method of Claim 1, wherein said processing application comprises a commercially available billing application.

31. The method of Claim 1, wherein said billing information is provided to said processing application electronically.

32. The method of Claim 31, wherein said billing information is provided to said processing application electronically via a recordable media.

33. The method of Claim 31, wherein said billing information is provided to said processing application electronically via a communications link.

34. The method of Claim 33, wherein said communications link comprises said computer network.

35. A computer program product embodied on a computer-readable storage medium for providing transactional billing services for trusted third party services offered to a plurality of users via a computer network, the computer program product comprising:

code for generating at least one log record indicative of at least one of said users submitting at least one electronic document for trusted third party services;

code for generating at least one log record indicative of forwarding said at least one electronic document to at least a second of said plurality of users;

code for parsing said log records to generate billing information indicative of said submitting and forwarding; and,

code for providing said billing information to at least one processing application which processes said billing information and generates a plurality of bills dependently thereupon.

36. The computer program product of Claim 35, said code further comprising code for capturing information indicative of a billing label from said first user, wherein at least some of said captured information is included in at least one of said log records.

37. The computer program product of Claim 36, wherein said billing label is associated with at least said submitting.
38. The computer program product of Claim 36, wherein said billing label is indicative of a client identifier.
39. The computer program product of Claim 36, wherein said billing label is indicative of a credit card.
40. The computer program product of Claim 35, said code further comprising code for capturing information indicative of a billing label from said at least second user, wherein at least some of said captured information is included in at least one of said log records.
41. The computer program product of Claim 40, wherein said billing label is associated with at least said forwarding.

42. The computer program product of Claim 40, wherein said billing label is indicative of a client identifier.
43. The computer program product of Claim 40, wherein said billing label is indicative of a credit card.
44. The computer program product of Claim 35, wherein said parsing is performed automatically and periodically.
45. The computer program product of Claim 35, said code further comprising code for generating at least one log record indicative of notifying at least said second of said plurality of users of said submitting.
46. The computer program product of Claim 45, wherein said notifying comprises generating at least one e-mail message.

47. The computer program product of Claim 46, wherein said e-mail message includes at least one electronic address associated with said computer network and the trusted third party services.

48. The computer program product of Claim 47, wherein said electronic address is a uniform resource locator.

49. The computer program product of Claim 48, wherein said uniform resource locator is further associated with said at least one submitted document.

50. The computer program product of Claim 35, said code further comprising code for associating a discreet time with each of said log entries.

51. The computer program product of Claim 35, wherein said users are separated into a plurality of subsets, each of said subsets being associated with a subscribing entity.

52. The computer program product of Claim 51, wherein at least one said subscribing entity is a firm.

53. The computer program product of Claim 51, further comprising providing at least one of said plurality of bills to at least one of said subscribing entities.

54. The computer program product of Claim 53, wherein said at least one electronic document and said at least one of said plurality of bills are respectively submitted and provided via said computer network.

55. The computer program product of Claim 53, wherein said at least one of said plurality of bills is provided via said computer network.

56. The computer program product of Claim 35, said code further comprising code for storing data indicative of default billing information for each of said users.

57. The computer program product of Claim 35, wherein said at least one electronic document is submitted via said computer network.
58. The computer program product of Claim 35, wherein said computer network comprises a global interconnection of computers and computer networks.
59. The computer program product of Claim 35, said code further comprising code for generating a log record indicative of storing said at least one submitted electronic document.
60. The computer program product of Claim 59, said code further comprising code for encrypting said submitted electronic document prior to said storing.
61. The computer program product of Claim 60, said code further comprising code for generating a log record indicative of retrieving said encrypted stored electronic document.

62. The computer program product of Claim 61, said code further comprising code for decrypting said encrypted retrieved electronic document.

63. The computer program product of Claim 35, wherein said billing application comprises a commercially available billing application.

64. The computer program product of Claim 35, wherein said billing information is provided to said processing application electronically.

65. The computer program product of Claim 64, wherein said billing information is provided to said processing application electronically via a recordable media.

66. The computer program product of Claim 64, wherein said billing information is provided to said processing application electronically via a communications link.

67. The computer program product of Claim 66, wherein said communications link comprises said computer network.

68. A transactional billing services system for trusted third party services offered to a plurality of users via a computer network, said system comprising:

at least one database configured for storing log record indicative of at least one of said users submitting at least one electronic document for trusted third party services, and at least one log record indicative of forwarding said at least one electronic document to at least a second of said plurality of users;

at least one database engine for parsing said log records stored in said at least one database; and,

at least one billing application for generating a plurality of bills responsively to said parsing, wherein each of said bills is indicative of at least one of said log records.

69. The system of Claim 68, wherein said database is further configured for storing at least one billing label associated with each of said log records.

70. The system of Claim 69, wherein at least one of said billing labels is indicative of a client identifier.

71. The system of Claim 69, wherein at least one of said billing labels is indicative of a credit card account.

72. The system of Claim 68, wherein said database engine parses said at least one database automatically and periodically.

73. The system of Claim 68, wherein said database is further configured for storing at least one log record indicative of notifying at least said second of said plurality of users of said submitting.

74. The system of Claim 73, wherein said notifying comprises generating at least one e-mail message.

75. The system of Claim 74, wherein said generated at least one e-mail message includes at least one electronic address associated with said computer network and the trusted third party services.

76. The system of Claim 75, wherein said electronic address comprises a uniform resource locator.

77. The system of Claim 76, wherein said uniform resource locator is associated with said at least one submitted document.

78. The system of Claim 68, wherein each said log record is indicative of a discreet time respectively associated therewith.

79. The system of Claim 68, wherein at least one of said plurality of bills is provided to at least one of said plurality of users via said computer network.

80. The system of Claim 68, wherein said at least one database is further configured for storing default billing information for each of said plurality of users.

81. The system of Claim 68, wherein said at least one electronic document is submitted via said computer network.

82. The system of Claim 81, wherein said computer network comprises a global interconnection of computers and computer networks.

83. The system of Claim 68, wherein said at least one database is further configured for storing at least one log record indicative of storing said at least one submitted electronic document.

84. The system of Claim 83, further comprising at least one encryptor communicably coupled to said at least one database and for encrypting said submitted electronic document prior to said storing.

85. The system of Claim 84, wherein said at least one database is further configured for storing at least one log record indicative of retrieving said encrypted stored electronic document.

86. The system of Claim 85, wherein said at least one encryptor decrypts each said encrypted retrieved electronic document.

87. The system of Claim 68, wherein said billing application comprises a commercially available billing application.

88. The system of Claim 68, wherein said billing information is provided to said billing application via a communications link.

89. The system of Claim 88, wherein said communications link comprises at least a portion of said computer network.

90. The system of Claim 68, wherein said billing information is provided to said billing application via a recordable media.

91. A transactional billing services system for trusted third party services offered to a plurality of users via a computer network, said system comprising:

means for storing data signifying log records indicative of submitting ones of said users submitting electronic documents for trusted third party services, and log records indicative of said submitted electronic documents being forwarded to receiving ones of said plurality of users;

means for parsing said stored data signifying said log records; and,

means for generating a plurality of bills responsive to said means for parsing, wherein each of said bills is respectively associated with and dependent upon at least one of said log records and at least a corresponding one of said submitting or receiving ones of said users.

92. The system of Claim 91, wherein said means for storing data comprises at least one database.

93. The system of Claim 92, wherein said means for parsing comprises at least one database engine.

94. The system of Claim 93, wherein said means for generating comprises at least one billing application.

95. The system of Claim 91, wherein said means for storing further comprises means for storing data signifying billing labels respectively associated with said log records.

96. The system of Claim 95, wherein at least one of said billing labels is indicative of a client identifier.

97. The system of Claim 95, wherein at least one of said billing labels is indicative of a credit card account.

98. The system of Claim 91, wherein said means for parsing operates at predetermined intervals.

99. The system of Claim 98, wherein said predetermined intervals correspond to billing periods for said trusted third party services.

100. The system of Claim 91, wherein said means for storing further comprises means for storing data signifying log records indicative of notifying said receiving ones of said users of said submitting.

101. The system of Claim 100, wherein said notifying comprises generating at least one e-mail message.

102. The system of Claim 101, wherein said generated at least one e-mail message includes at least one electronic address associated with said computer network and the trusted third party services.

103. The system of Claim 102, wherein said electronic address comprises a uniform resource locator.

104. The system of Claim 103, wherein said uniform resource locator is associated with said at least one submitted document.

105. The system of Claim 91, wherein each said log record is indicative of a discreet time respectively associated therewith.

106. The system of Claim 91, wherein at least one of said plurality of bills is provided to at least one of said plurality of users via said computer network.

107. The system of Claim 91, wherein said means for storing comprises means for storing data signifying default billing information for each of said plurality of users.

108. The system of Claim 91, wherein said electronic documents are submitted via said computer network.

109. The system of Claim 108, wherein said computer network comprises a global interconnection of computers and computer networks.

110. The system of Claim 91, wherein said means for storing further comprises means for storing log records indicative of storing said submitted electronic documents.

111. The system of Claim 110, further comprising means for encrypting said submitted electronic documents prior to said storing.

112. The system of Claim 111, wherein said means for storing log records indicative of retrieving said encrypted stored electronic documents.

113. The system of Claim 112, wherein said means for encrypting further comprises means for decrypting each said retrieved encrypted electronic document.

114. The system of Claim 113, wherein said means for encrypting comprise at least one encryptor/decryptor unit communicably coupled to said means for storing.

115. The system of Claim 91, wherein said means for parsing and means for generating are communicable coupled via at least a portion of said computer network.

116. The system of Claim 91, further comprising at least one recordable media accessible by both said means for parsing and means for generating.